GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:326
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2016
Implementation of MGNREGS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the country particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details and the findings thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) the total number of projects and amount allocated/sanctioned thereunder and the expenditure incurred for implementation of MGNREGS during the said period; and

(d) the total number of poor persons which benefited as a result of implementation of MGNREGS in thecountry, since its inception, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a)&(b): The Ministry of Rural Development has commissioned surveys on different aspects of implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Several studies have been conducted by independent research institutions on the implementation of MGNREGA. The more than 40 survey results published from the year 2012 to 2014 in Sameeksha II, published by the Ministry of Rural Development and United Nations Development Programme (India). The results of the studies show that:

1. MGNREGA appears to be largely successful in its targeting. These studies show that MGNREGA due to its self-selecting demand driven design is able to engage with the most vulnerable and marginalised.

2. Research on works presents that firstly, about 87% of the works exist on ground (Narayanan et al, 2014; Maharashtra context), when cross validated with the official administrative data. Several Studies also suggest that beneficiaries find the works useful; works increased the land productivity, helped multi-cropping, helped to manage risks and reduced vulnerability.

3. The evidence on MGNREGA and its impact on rural labour markets are mixed. Gulati, Jain and Satija (2013) assess that while growth variables like Gross Domestic Product and construction and agriculture sectors have an impact on real farm wages, the impact of these growth variables is 5−6 times higher than that of MGNREGA. While MGNREGA certainly re-set the wage rate after 2004, the development of the construction sector, the fast urbanization and economic growth in the country etc. also had an impact on rural labour markets. In this scenario, MGNREGA presented a 'point of contestation' for the rural labour and continues to do so.

4. The evidence that MGNREGA mitigates distress migration is limited to the western and the eastern contexts, is yet compelling. While women's participation rates in MGNREGA are satisfactory at the aggregate national level much higher than the mandatory 33%, several states need to address low women participation rates in their contexts. This is crucially linked to governance as well as the socio-cultural realities in those contexts.

(c): The MGNREGA is a demand driven programmes hence no State/UTs-wise allocation of fund is made. State-UTs-wise details of amount released, expenditure and works taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during the last three years and the current year is indicated in Annexure-I.

(d): The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in a financial year to every rural household including poor rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Not less than 100 days of employment are provided to registered workers including rural youth, upon receipt of their demand. State/UT-wise details of households provided employment as demanded by job card holders under MGNREGA since inception are indicated in the Annexure-II.

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